

Links to Salon and Huff Post blogs that used photos from our BP Whiting response web site:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/31/lake-michigan-oil-spill_n_5062922.html?utm_hp_ref=green

http://www.salon.com/2014/03/28/bp_lake_michigan_oil_spill_was_actually_twice_as_big_as_we_originally_said/

News Headline: No more oil found near Indiana refinery spill |  

Outlet Full Name: Washington Post - Online, The



News Text: WHITING, Ind. — The Coast Guard says crews didn't find any more oil during the latest search of the Lake Michigan shore following last week's spill at BP's northwestern Indiana refinery.

Officials say a Coast Guard, BP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assessment team checking the area near the Whiting refinery on Sunday spotted no visible oil on the shore or in the water. Cleanup workers spent last week removing oil from about a half-mile section of shoreline.

The Coast Guard says BP is being allowed to remove most of the containment boom from the lake some 20 miles southeast of downtown Chicago where a refinery malfunction discharged oil on March 24.

BP estimates between 15 and 39 barrels of oil were discharged into the lake. That's between 630 and 1,638 gallons.

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News Headline: Winds and waves delay survey of Indiana oil spill |  

Outlet Full Name: Washington Post - Online, The

News Text: WHITING, Ind. — High winds and waves have delayed a search along Lake Michigan for crude oil possibly submerged offshore following an oil spill at BP's northwestern Indiana refinery.


The U.S. Coast Guard said Friday's poor weather made it too dangerous for a Coast Guard, BP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assessment team to launch boats to retrieve samples along the path of the Whiting refinery's oil spill. That work is expected to resume Sunday.

Crews were scheduled to remove oil-covered pebbles Saturday along the lake some 20 miles southeast of downtown Chicago where a refinery malfunction discharged oil earlier this week.

BP said Thursday a preliminary estimate shows between 15 and 39 barrels of oil were discharged into the lake by its Whiting refinery. That's between 630 and 1,638 gallons.

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News Headline: BP raises estimate of Lake Michigan oil spill | 

Outlet Full Name: Chicago Tribune Collections

News Text: BP today more than doubled its maximum estimate of how much crude oil spilled into Lake Michigan earlier this week from its Whiting refinery in Northwest Indiana.

In a statement, the company said a malfunction in a new distillation unit forced up to 39 barrels or 1,638 gallons of oil into the lake just across the Illinois border. A day earlier, the company had estimated that 18 barrels at most had been spilled.

BP said it based its latest estimate on the amount of oil collected by vacuum trucks and absorbent booms, along with an inventory of the waxy balls of oil that cleanup crews scoured from a beach on BP's property. Strong winds appear to have pushed most of the oil toward a shallow cove between the refinery and an ArcelorMittal steel mill.

Officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have said the spill likely poses no long-term risks to Lake Michigan, the source of drinking water for 7 million people in Chicago and the suburbs. The 68th Street water intake crib is about 8 miles northwest of the spill site, but there have been no signs of oil drifting in that direction.

At a minimum, 15 barrels of oil ended up in the lake after crude leaked into a sealed cooling system, BP said. The low estimate the previous day was 9 barrels.

The EPA declined to comment on BP's updated spill estimates. The agency is conducting its own investigation into possible violations of the federal Clean Water Act.

Workers at the refinery reported an oil sheen on the water about 4:30 p.m. Monday, and the EPA said the leak was plugged by 9 p.m. The distillation unit, which came online in July 2013, is the centerpiece of a nearly \$4 billion overhaul that enabled the nation's seventh-largest refinery to process more heavy Canadian oil from the tar sands region of Alberta.

The unit performs one of the first steps in the refining of crude oil into gasoline and other fuels. It has since resumed normal operations, BP said.

Indiana officials have been silent about the spill. But a bipartisan group of politicians from Illinois and Michigan, including Mayor Rahm Emanuel and U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk, are demanding more aggressive action from BP to prevent additional spills.

"This spill raises questions about the long-term safety and reliability of BP's new, expanded production at Whiting," Durbin and Kirk wrote in a letter asking for a meeting with John Minge, the top U.S. official for the London-based oil company. "It is in all of our best interests ... to ensure that this greater processing capacity will do no harm to Lake Michigan."

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News Headline: BP oil spill isn't affecting Michigan's beaches, state says |  

Outlet Full Name: MLive.com

News Text: MICHIGAN -- There are few concerns that a Lake Michigan oil spill in Whiting, Ind. will affect any Michigan beaches, a state Department of Environmental Quality spokesman said.

The Monday, March 24 spill at BP's Whiting Refinery allowed between 630 gallons and 1,638 gallons of oil into Lake Michigan.

BP raised the oil spill estimate Thursday, from an earlier tally of 377 gallons to 755 gallons.

A BP spokesman said the vast majority of the oil had been contained and collected, using a boom to keep it in a cove.

Brad Wurfel, a spokesman for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, on Friday, March 28 said Michigan authorities were receiving updates about the clean-up.

"We don't have an immediate concerns for Michigan's natural resources," he said. "Nobody wants to see any oil going into Lake Michigan obviously, but this is a situation that seems under control."

Wurfel said oil spills in cold water are easier to control than in warmer seasons because the oil does not spread out as fast.

Cleanup crews deploy boom along the Lake Michigan shoreline near the BP Whiting Refinery in Whiting, Ind., March 25, to recover crude oil discharged from the refinery the previous day.

U.S. Coast Guard

He said the spill was small in comparison to the estimated 843,000 gallons that spilled into Talmadge Creek, then the Kalamazoo River, after an Enbridge Energy pipeline ruptured near Marshall in 2010.

Phil Bloom, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, said he's heard of no concerns that oil is reaching Indiana Dunes State Park along Lake Michigan, about 16 miles east of Whiting.

He said the lakeshore still has up to a half-mile of shelf ice that could prevent oil from reaching the beach.

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